



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 107

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6383

House of Representatives, March 19, 2015

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL COSTS OF CERTAIN VETERAN AMPUTEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) Upon application by a
2 veteran or member of the armed forces on a form prescribed by the
3 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, the cost of medical services or
4 equipment relating to the loss in service of an arm or leg in excess of
5 any such costs covered by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs
6 for such loss shall be borne by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. For
7 the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who was
8 discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from
9 active service in the armed forces and "armed forces" has the same
10 meaning as provided in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
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VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires a veteran amputee to apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) for medical costs and equipment not covered by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill may result in a potential significant cost to DVA dependent on: (1) the number of veteran applications and (2) the unfunded medical and equipment costs. The number of veteran amputees in Connecticut is unknown; however there are approximately 25,000 disabled veterans in Connecticut who receive disability payments. The Federal DVA is responsible for long-term medical care for veterans' war injuries. Veterans with a service-connected disability are entitled to certain federal benefits, including medical care and compensation.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future dependent on the number of veteran applications received by DVA for medical coverage.

Sources: Department of Veteran Affairs

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6383*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL COSTS OF CERTAIN VETERAN AMPUTEES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the state Department of Veterans' Affairs to cover a veteran or service member's medical services or equipment (1) associated with the loss in service of an arm or a leg and (2) not covered by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran or armed forces member must apply for coverage on a commissioner-prescribed form. The bill does not specify any criteria for determining the veteran or service member's costs.

Under the bill, a veteran is anyone who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and any reserve component of these branches, including duty in the Connecticut National Guard under Title 32 of federal law).

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration is responsible for long-term medical care for veterans' war injuries. Veterans with a service-connected disability are entitled to certain federal benefits, including medical care and compensation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)